

10/736,430

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in this application. Claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,366,617 to Nanstiel et al. (hereinafter "Nanstiel"). Claims 5-6 and 8-9 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nanstiel in view of U.S. Patent 6,079,092 to Bannerman. Claims 1 and 12-21 are stated as being allowed; claims 4, 7 and 10-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant notes that new independent claims 22-25 correspond to claims 4, 7 and 10-11, respectively, at the time of their stated allowability and per the aforementioned instruction as stated in the Office Action. Such correspondence exists with the exceptions that (a) Applicant's invention has been claimed as a "fuel injector remover", so as to provide conformity with the specification and (b) the dependency of claim 11 has been changed to provide proper antecedent basis; insofar as this change affects both claim 25 and claim 11, respectively. Further, Applicant takes this opportunity to kindly note an appreciation for the statements of allowability regarding claims 1, 4, 7, 10-11 and 12-21; and that similar amendment reciting a "fuel injector remover" has been provided for allowed independent claims 1 and 12.

As noted above, independent claim 2, from which claims 3, 5-6 and 8-9 depend, has been stated as being anticipated by Nanstiel; specifically, since Nanstiel is said to "... disclose a prime mover (14), a snout portion (40), [and] a puller rod ([FIG.3]).".

First, contrary to the above statement contained in the Office Action, Nanstiel fails to provide for a snout portion which, as has been claimed by Applicant, "... defin[es] a tapered portion sized such that when the tapered portion abuts an outer diameter of a counterbore of [a] cylinder head the snout portion is centered within the counterbore to locate the prime mover over the fuel injector ..."; and instead, provides only for a spacer 40 with the purpose and structure as characterized by column 3, lines 3-6 and associated figures thereof. Consequently, it is believed that the instant rejection of claim 2 lacks a proper basis for anticipation and should, therefore, be withdrawn.

10/736,430

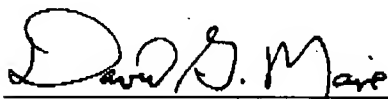
Second, likewise as in the case of independent claims 1 and 12, independent claim 2, and all claims which depend therefrom, each now recite "[a] fuel injector remover . . ." as that which has been claimed. As such, Nanstiel fails to provide for such structure; therefore, is an improper basis for anticipation requiring that the rejection be withdrawn.

Nevertheless, as now further amended, independent claim 2 and all claims which depend therefrom, each recite "... movement of [a] puller rod to [a] second position thereof then operating to separate the fuel injector from the cylinder head, the puller rod freely achieving separation of the fuel injector." Nanstiel, aside from providing even a suggestion of such recitation, fails to disclose this structure and functional relationship of Applicant's invention as now claimed and described commensurate with the remainder of the specification. Accordingly, it is kindly requested that the rejection of claims 2-3 be withdrawn.

In regard to the rejection of claims 5-6 and 8-9 under 35 USC 103(a), it is believed that such basis for rejection is no longer appropriate in view of the Applicant's statements appearing herein; accordingly, it is kindly requested that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

In conclusion, reconsideration of the application, as now amended, and consequent allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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